

## Letters to the Editor

### Wall of Suspicion

Sir: Your editorial (July 9) on the Latin-American based "Project Camelot" does not point out the most significant trend which is reemphasized by this story. The United States military and the CIA have been for years using educational institutions, private foundations and private individuals, not formally associated with either group, to further their ends in foreign countries, often in direct opposition to Washington's stated policy.

In the present case the American University Office of Operations Research was the respectable "cover." The paper on this subject issued by this project states: "The United States Army has an important mission in the positive and constructive aspects of nation-building as well as responsibility to assist friendly governments in dealing with active insurgency problems." Ralph A. Dungan, United States Ambassador to Chile, where the first experiment was scheduled, issued a sharp protest, declaring that the operation had not been cleared with the State Department. The uneasiness in many pro-United States circles, already greatly increased by the developments in the Dominican Republic, was further heightened by this disclosure of new expansion of Defense Department activities.

The CIA-financed Center for International Studies at M.I.T., the Kaplan Foundation and eight associated private funds, are examples of the ac-

tivities which have cast a pall of suspicion over every agency and individual working in a foreign country. The United States Armed Forces Southern Command, at Fort Amador in the Canal Zone, and the Inter-American Defense College in Washington have shifted completely to antisubversion training. These centers, and many others throughout the country, inflate the ego of and indoctrinate thousands of Latin American and Caribbean military yearly. Many of the top brass of the juntas are products of this orientation; Wessin y Wessin of the Dominican Republic and Lopez Arrello of Honduras, for examples. The details of what takes place at these schools for suppression is not known outside a small circle in the Pentagon. Senator Fulbright, in a speech at Chapel Hill, N.C., stated: "The American people are not now exercising effective control over the military; and neither is the Congress."

The situation is such that all independent Latin Americanists, private agencies and academic teams which go to Middle or South America offering genuine cooperation are met by a wall of suspicion which greatly slows down and adulterates the contributions which they might make. This barrier will be very apparent at the Inter-American Conference on August 4, and may be the principal reason why this meeting will achieve nothing but further confusion and bafflement.

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